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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Norio NUMAKO

Group Art Unit: 2872
Examiner: Arthur A. SMITH

Appln. No. : 09/961,186

Filed : September 24, 2001

For : LENS DRIVE CONTROL APPARATUS FOR ZOOM LENS SYSTEM
HAVING A SWITCHING LENS GROUP

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, § 1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the instant application on March 8, 2002, Applicant hereby calls the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 4,484,800 to TAMURA, which issued on November 27, 1984;
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 4,576,446 to KAMATA, which issued on March 18, 1986;
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 4,595,081 to PARSONS, which issued on June 17, 1986;
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 4,662,241 to EDWARDS, which issued on May 5, 1987;
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 4,834,514 to ATSUTA et al., which issued on May 30, 1989;
- (6) U.S. Patent No. 4,971,427 to TAKAMURA et al., which issued on November 20, 1990;
- (7) U.S. Patent No. 4,993,815 to YAMAZAKI et al., which issued on February 19, 1991;
- (8) U.S. Patent No. 5,037,187 to ODA et al., which issued on August 6, 1991;
- (9) U.S. Patent No. 5,177,638 to EMURA et al., which issued on January 5, 1993;

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- (10) U.S. Patent No. 5,196,963 to SATO et al., which issued on March 23, 1993;
- (11) U.S. Patent No. 5,268,794 to CHAN, which issued on December 7, 1993;
- (12) U.S. Patent No. 5,301,066 to HIGUCHI et al., which issued on April 5, 1994;
- (13) U.S. Patent No. 5,589,987 to TANAKA, which issued on December 31, 1996;
- (14) U.S. Patent No. 5,701,208 to SATO et al., which issued on December 23, 1997;
- (15) U.S. Patent No. 5,739,962 to ASAOKURA et al., which issued on April 14, 1998;
- (16) U.S. Patent No. 5,774,266 to OTANI et al., which issued on June 30, 1998;
- (17) U.S. Patent No. 5,870,232 to TSUJI et al., which issued on February 9, 1999;
- (18) U.S. Patent No. 5,933,285 to SATO et al., which issued on August 3, 1999;
- (19) U.S. Patent No. 6,069,745 to FUJII et al., which issued on May 30, 2000;
- (20) U.S. Patent No. 6,195,211 to IWASAKI, which issued on February 27, 2001;
- (21) U.S. Patent No. 6,369,955 to ENOMOTO et al., which issued on April 9, 2002;
- (22) U.S. Patent No. 6,456,442 to ENOMOTO, which issued on September 24, 2002;
- (23) U.S. Patent No. 6,456,445 to NOMURA et al., which issued on September 24, 2002;
- (24) U.S. Patent No. 6,469,840 to NOMURA et al., which issued on October 22, 2002;
- (25) U.S. Patent No. 6,469,841 to NOMURA et al., which issued on October 22, 2002; and
- (26) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0012178 A1, which was published on January 31, 2002.

As discussed with (SPE) Ms. Georgia Epps, on April 9, 2003, Applicant notes that documents (1)-(26) were cited by the Examiners in eleven related co-pending, commonly assigned U.S. Patent Applications filed on the same day (September 24, 2001), which were cross referenced

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in the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the instant application on March 8, 2002. The documents cited herein and are being submitted in accordance with the discussion with Ms. Epps on April 9, 2003.

Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent applications (i.e., documents (27)-(38)):

(27) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/101,062 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Camera Having Lens Barrier", filed on March 20, 2002;

(28) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/101,149 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Light Intercepting Member Driving Mechanism", filed on March 20, 2002;

(29) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/101,150 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Lens Shutter Mechanism", filed on March 20, 2002;

(30) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/101,168 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Lens Shutter Mechanism", filed on March 20, 2002;

(31) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/101,314 to NOMURA et al., entitled "FPC Mounting Plate", filed on March 21, 2002;

(32) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/101,377 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Lens Guide Mechanism", filed on March 20, 2002;

(33) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/101,618 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Zoom Lens Barrel Assembly", filed on March 21, 2002;

(34) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/101,621 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Multi-Stage-Extension Zoom Lens Barrel Assembly", filed on March 21, 2002, which is now U.S. Patent No.

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6,522,478, issued on February 18, 2003;

(35) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/101,753 to NOMURA et al., entitled “Stopper Structure for Zoom Lens Barrel Assembly”, filed on March 21, 2002;

(36) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/101,827 to NOMURA et al., entitled “Zoom Lens Barrel Assembly”, filed on March 21, 2002, which is now U.S. Patent No. 6,522,482, issued on February 18, 2003;

(37) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/101,837 to NOMURA et al., entitled “Lens Assembly”, filed on March 21, 2002; and

(38) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/101,963 to NOMURA et al., entitled “Cam Structure for Zoom Lens Barrel Assembly”, filed on March 21, 2002, which is now U.S. Patent No. 6,522,481, issued on February 18, 2003.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-mentioned applications and/or issued patents are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Further, Applicant also submits the following documents (i.e., (39)-(51)), which were cited by the Examiners in the nine above-mentioned co-pending, commonly assigned U.S. Patent Applications filed on the same day (March 21, 2002):

(39) U.S. Patent No. 4,390,262 to HIROHATA et al., issued on June 28, 1983, which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,168;

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(40) U.S. Patent No. 4,416,527 to OKURA, issued on November 22, 1983, which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,168;

(41) U.S. Patent No. 5,166,829 to IIZUKA, issued on November 24, 1992, which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,377;

(42) U.S. Patent No. 5,241,422 to SHIMADA et al., issued on August 31, 1993, which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,377;

(43) U.S. Patent No. 5,461,443 to NAKAYAMA et al., issued on October 24, 1995, which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,621 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,522,478, issued on February 22, 2003);

(44) U.S. Patent No. 5,559,571 to MIYAMOTO et al., issued on September 24, 1996, which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,314;

(45) U.S. Patent No. 5,812,889 to NOMURA et al., issued on September 22, 1998, which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,837;

(46) U.S. Patent No. 6,118,666 to AOKI et al., issued on September 12, 2000, which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,314;

(47) U.S. Patent No. 6,160,670 to NAKAYAMA et al., issued on December 12, 2000, which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,377;

(48) U.S. Patent No. 6,424,469 to HIRAI, issued on July 23, 2002, which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,963 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,522,481, issued on February 22, 2003);

(49) U.S. Patent No. 6,437,924 to AZEGAMI, issued on August 20, 2002, which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,963 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,522,481, issued on February 22, 2003);

(50) U.S. Patent No. 6,493,511 to SATO, issued on December 10, 2002, which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,314; and

(51) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 4-340907, published on November 27, 1992 (together with an English language Abstract), which was cited by the Examiner in an Official Action for U.S. Application No. 10/101,753.

Applicant also would like to update the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the instant application on March 8, 2002. Originally cited as pending applications in the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the instant application on March 8, 2002, the following documents (i.e., documents (52) and (53)) have issued as patents and are called to the Examiner's attention and submitted herewith:

(52) U.S. Patent No. 6,429,979 to ENOMOTO, which issued on August 6, 2002; and

(53) U.S. Patent No. 6,437,922 to ENOMOTO et al., which issued on August 20, 2002.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicant with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

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Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has issued in the instant application, and thus, a check in the amount of \$180.00 is attached to ensure consideration of this statement and the submitted materials. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any necessary additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Norio NUMAKO

Will. E. Lyall Reg. No.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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April 30, 2003
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191